

attached by suitable means such as a bracket 66 to a rear bumper 68 adjacent the floor 20 of the rear end 16. The bracket 66 is attached to the rear bumper 68 by suitable means such as fasteners 67 or welding. The latch mechanism 62 also includes a latch 70 attached by suitable means such as fasteners (not shown) to a forward longitudinal end 72 of the bottom 36 of the drawer 34 for engaging and disengaging the striker 64. The latch mechanism 62 includes a movable handle 74 for actuating the latch 70 to release the striker 64 to move the drawer 34 from a closed position adjacent to the rear end 16 of the vehicle 12 to an open position spaced longitudinally away from the rear end 16 of the vehicle 12. It should be appreciated that the striker 64 and latch 70 are conventional and known in the art.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the pending Abstract of the Disclosure on page 13 of the Specification with the following:

An integrated extendable load floor assembly is provided for a vehicle having a rear end with a floor and sides extending upwardly and along the floor to form a cargo area and a decklid for closing an upper portion of the cargo area. The integrated extendable load floor assembly includes a plurality of rails adapted to be disposed upon the sides above the floor of the rear end. The integrated drawer assembly also includes a load floor operatively cooperating with the rails for sliding movement therealong and to close a longitudinal end of the cargo area.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute amended claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 20, and 21 as follows for the pending claims with the same number: